

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-13

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, CH

SUBJECT: PROPOSED USLO APPROACH TO TECHIMPORT ON
PETROLEUM COOPERATION

REFS: (A) ROPE-SCHMELZER LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 10

(B) STATE 189155

1. ROPE LETTER TO SCHMELZER OF SEPTEMBER 10 WITH
ATTACHMENTS SENT TO EA/PRCM PROPOSES THAT USLO ECON/
COMMERCIAL OFFICERS MAKE APPROACH TO TECHIMPORT FOR
GENERAL DISCUSSION OF POSSIBILITIES OF SINO-US COOPERATION
IN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, REFINING, MARKETING,
ETC. IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM LETTERS SENT TO DEPARTMENT,
BUT WE PRESUME THAT PRINCIPAL FOCUS WOULD BE OFFSHORE OIL.

2. US POLICY ON SINO-US COOPERATION IN ABOVE MATTERS
IS CURRENTLY UNDER HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW WITHIN USG. QUES-
TIONS BEING CONSIDERED INCLUDE EXTENT TO WHICH SUCH
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COOPERATION IS DESIRABLE FROM US PERSPECTIVE; EXTENT TO

WHICH CURRENT BAN ON US OIL COMPANY OPERATIONS IN DISPUTED AREAS WORLDWIDE SHOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY TO YELLOW SEA, EAST CHINA SEA, SOUTH CHINA SEA, ETC; WAYS IN WHICH EXCON APPLIES TO SENSITIVE SEISMIC, INERTIAL NAVIGATION SYSTEMS AND COMPUTERS UTILIZED IN OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION AND EXTENT TO WHICH COOPERATION COULD PROCEED WITHOUT COMPROMISING SUCH TECHNOLOGY UNACCEPTABLY; EXTENT TO WHICH US

COMPANY OPERATIONS OFFSHORE OF CHINA COULD INVOLVE USG IN PRC DISPUTES WITH ROC, ROK, JAPAN, RVN, OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. WE HAVE EXPLAINED TO COMPANIES IN WASHINGTON THAT, WHILE COMPANIES ARE FREE TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION WITH PRC AND PRC DECISION TO ENTER CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH US COMPANY WOULD BE POSITIVE FACTOR IN USG RECONSIDERATION OF GENERAL POLICY, USG RESERVES POSITION ON DISPUTED AREAS AND EXCON ASPECTS OF ANY PROPOSAL. CURRENT POLICY IS THAT NO RPT NO SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT OF CERTAIN SPECIFIED CATEGORIES, NO RPT NO AMERICAN FLAG VESSELS AND NO RPT NO AMERICAN CITIZENS MAY ENGAGE IN OIL EXPLORATION WORK IN DISPUTED AREAS OF THE NORTH ASIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF.

4. PENDING HIGH-LEVEL DECISION TO MODIFY USG POLICY, USLO SHOULD NOT APPROACH TECHIMPORT FOR ANY DISCUSSION ON PETROLEUM EXPLORATION INCLUDING ASHLAND PROPOSAL. RUSH

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